

### A GENERAL STATE

OF THE

## WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY,

For the Year 1787.



F the numerous distempers, and consequent infirmities, humanity is heir to, there are none more frequent, or fatal, than those which originate from the baneful source of Contaginate. To determine the specific nature, with the communication and dissussion of such

affections, must be ever accounted subjects of not less difficult investigation than salutary importance, to the interests

terests of the community: - It will, however, here be folely eligible to briefly trace their rife and progress, in the operation and effects of those epidemics by which the General Health of the Objects of this Charity has been occasionally, and powerfully, interrupted. The principal one of three preceding years, Nervous Fever, though it became gradually and sensibly more mild and transient, was, with great difficulty, totally eradicated from confined and populous situations. In these, as well as most other instances, it was obvious that the concurrence of certain relaxing and debilitating causes were requisite to the instant and potent excitement of disease: hence the influence of cold, fatigue, fear, or especially anxiety for the fate of relatives or friends, always rendered the system more susceptible of it. Agreeably to the united sentiment of practitioners, we also rarely found contagion operate with peculiar virulency, or extend its destructive malignancy to any confiderable diffance; the patients themselves, or the cloaths replete with the contaminated effluvia, being best qualified to convey the infection. Several cases of Dysentery, Measles, and Hooping Cough, have been admitted, but continued so remarkably favourable as to feldom demand any medical attention. - The SMALL Pox were accidentally brought over from Ireland, in the month of October, and notwithstanding the contagion took place in a close, well inhabited part of the town, and affumed every appearance of malignancy and impending hazard, its pernicious consequences, and further disperfion, have been happily prevented.—A few intimations may be next properly adduced relative to the character, influence.

influence, and effects of SCARLET FEVER, a late alarming epidemic of this country. Every endeavour to mitigate the violence, and interrupt the communication of this distemper, will be necessarily excited by the consideration of that imminent and immediate danger which too oft unavoidably accompanies it. Amongst the poor, this contagion first appeared in the month of June last; but did not rage with fingular activity till the latter end of Summer, or beginning of Autumn. At these periods, and during the Winter, when limited to any particular, contracted fituation, the frequency of the disease was always perceived to aggravate the virulency, and increase the stality of it. Confined, in a great measure, to young persons, especially children, it has very generally expressed an inflammatory tendency. On the contrary, in certain perilous cases, its symptoms were found to rapidly degenerate into an highly malignant and putrid malady; the brain, stomach, or bowels being principally affected. The essential circumstances of this sever, though sometimes considerably diversified in their combination, and occurrence fiderably diversified in their combination and occurrence, were for the most part steady and uniform: one universal florid suffusion occupying the surface of the body, attended with an acute degree of fever, and a powerful affection of the throat. This last symptom frequently announced the disease, those of fever soon after acceded; whilst the eruption, which, in contrast with the small pox or measles, was least abundant upon the face, did not obtain before the third or fourth day. The early and copious appearance of which, with the mild and governable state of the primary complaints, became always obvious and unerring A 2

unerring indications of a very propitious event. The duration of this disease seldom exceeded six days, and its dangerous terminations, when further protracted, were the usual consequences of general or partial debility; dropsi-cal or scrophulous tumours forming in different parts of the body. With regard to this, and every other species of contagious disorder, we are happy in restoring the public tranquillity by the certain affurance, that this town and neighbourhood have been many months perfectly free from their influence. The state of the Winter, more open and temperate than even that of the preceding year, induced few, and those neither powerful nor permanent, chronic affections. Inflammatory and catarrhal complaints (so especially relying upon a vicissitude of weather to which in this climate we are singularly exposed) in consequence rarely and mildly prevailed. Several persons, however, with whom an almost habitual tendency to asthmatic and rheumatic disorders was connected with age and infirmity, fuffered at this season their accidental and violent recurrence. To these, the proper medical cases, may be added a numerous train of Surgical and MIDWIFERY patients; many of whom obtained every requisite assistance in circumstances of distressful solicitude and danger.

Relative to the subject of Suspended Animation, which has, in the metropolis of this kingdom, deservedly engaged the attention, and acquired the support of the ingenious and the opulent, we are frequently receiving very instructive information. To the sagacious Register of a Society, more immediately interested in the display and arrangement of each speculative doctrine or practical

application,

application, we remain indebted for this Test of Philanthropy, and also for respectfully, and repeatedly, introducing this necessary appendage of our Charity into the BIENNIAL REPORTS of that most excellent institution.

This Establishment is highly obligated to the goodness of Mr. Hogarth, who, in the valuable compliment of a large, commodious, and conveniently fituated DISPEN-SARY, exactly and elegantly accommodated to the feveral exigencies of a Medical Charity, has amply compensated for that deficiency in the amount of the collections for the present year, which various contingencies have unavoid. ably occasioned. This eminently liberal, unexpected, and unfolicited donation, annexed to the munificent benefaction of our Noble Institutor and President, with the generous contribution of Mr. BIGLAND, and the not less numerous than bountiful ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, (especially those of our Country Friends) will enable the Directors of this undertaking, influenced by the strictest principles of economy, to perfectly fulfil and usefully extend its complicated and humane occupations.

After this general state of the proceedings, and salutary consequences of so charitable an endowment, a further display of the motives exciting to the support of it will appear by no means eligible. The following satisfactory expectation may, therefore, suitably terminate this intro-

duction;

That whilst the PATRONS and PROMOTERS of this Dispensary, preventing, or alleviating, the combined infelicities of Poverty and Sickness, indulge the most exquisite and exalted sensations and reslections of HUMANITY;

-from

—from the objects of it will be voluntarily effused the laudable benedictions of GRATITUDE.



An ACCOUNT of the PATIENTS admitted, from June 11th, 1787, to June 9th, 1788.

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# PRECEDING DISEASES,

With their RESPECTIVE EVENTS.

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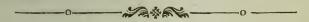
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I hole marked thus t are new St	ubic	riptions; and thus ‡ Augmentations.



Subscriptions are taken in at the Treasurer's: at Ware's Printing Office; and at the Dispensary.

All persons who are disposed to contribute by Will to this Charity, are requested to do it in the following manner:

"I give and bequeath to A. B. and C. D. the sum of upon trust, that they do pay the same to the Treasurer of the WHITEHAVEN DISPENSARY; which sum of I desire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of the said Charity."

Blank Letters of Recommendation may be had at the Dispensary.

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